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BOSSIER CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FIREARMS CHARGES IN FEDERAL COURT

Hand grenades and methamphetamine found in defendant's vehicle

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and ATF Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait announced that **MICHAEL BRADY SWAN**, age 34, of Bossier City, Louisiana, pleaded guilty before United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. to firearms and drug charges. SWAN will be sentenced October 5, 2006.

An indictment was returned by a federal jury in February 2006 charging SWAN with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime, and possession of unregistered grenades. In October 2005, Bossier City Police officers conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle SWAN was driving in connection with a narcotics investigation. Officers found four small hand grenades in the vehicle and nearly 200 grams of methamphetamine, as well as other drugs, a handgun and a large amount of cash. Bomb technicians with the Bossier City Fire Department responded to the scene and removed the explosive devices from SWAN's car and took them to a remote area in Bossier Parish where the devices were detonated.

SWAN faces a sentence of 20 years to life, a \$250,000 fine, or both. SWAN, a three-time convicted felon, has been charged under the Armed Career Criminal Act, which subjects him to an enhanced prison sentence. SWAN's three prior felony convictions were for burglary.

This case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to long prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, drug trafficking, robbery, carjacking and burglary.

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Shreveport Resident Agency, and the Bossier City Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary J. Mudrick.

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